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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

' Programme 11. Human settlements

1. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 24 and 25 June 1996, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 11, Human settlements, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Several delegations suggested that the draft programme should be updated in accordance with the outcome of the recently concluded second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). In that connection, a number of delegations underlined that the main theme of the programme should focus on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, thereby reinforcing the mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

3. A number of delegations pointed out that, in line with the outcome of the Istanbul Conference, the three subprogrammes should place adequate emphasis on the needs of developing countries in general and those countries in Africa region and the least developed countries in particular.

4. Some delegations felt that the draft programme should have reflected appropriate balance between rural and urban settlements.

5. Several delegations were of the view that the draft programme should have used agreed concepts and they called for the redrafting of paragraph 11.5 so as to underpin the idea that human beings are the centre of development.

6. Some delegations noted that account should have been taken of the needs of youth and their access to credit facilities.

7. A number of delegations were of the view that references to concepts such as democracy, peace and equity that appear in different parts of the document should find their appropriate place in the Perspective document (A/51/6 (Perspective)).

8. Some delegations expressed concern that the objectives of the programme were too general and that it would be impossible to measure its implementation. Other delegations felt that the draft programme was too ambitious and required considerable resources that might not be forthcoming. In that regard, a number of delegations wished emphasis to be placed on the need for the transfer of know-how and resources through international cooperation.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. In view of the adoption of the Habitat Agenda at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the programme be revised to reflect the consensus reached at Habitat II and be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-first session for approval.